



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems

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SNAPSHOT

OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS OF THE

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



ECA

Program information

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Housed at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems is a global knowledge and resource hub that actively supports national efforts to develop, strengthen, and scale-up CRVS systems. It collaborates with organizations and experts to broker access to information and expertise, including global standards, tools, research evidence, and relevant good practice.

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system in the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The information was collected through a questionnaire completed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage through the Civil Registry Department in March 2021 and supplemented by a desk review of available documents.

Among other things, this report presents:

- Background information on the country;
- Selected indicators relevant for CRVS improvement processes;
- Stakeholders' activities; and
- Resources available and needed to strengthen CRVS systems.

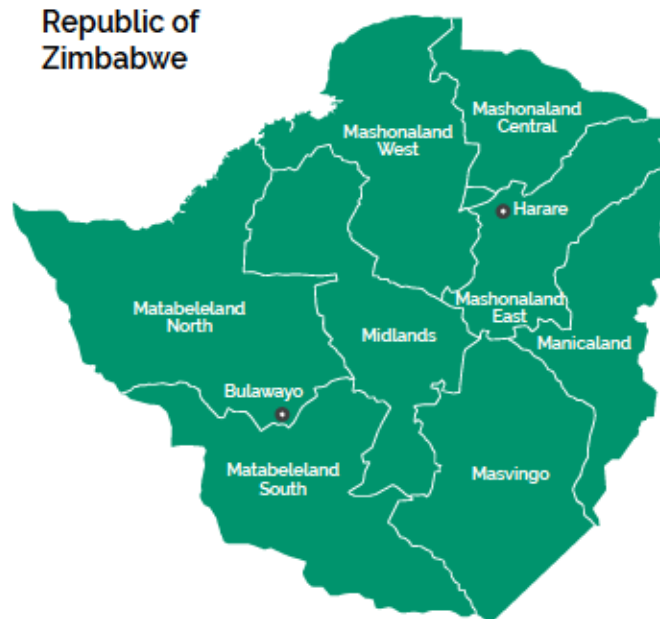
The report will also serve as an important benchmarking tool for the improvement initiatives of other countries.

Brief country profile

The Republic of Zimbabwe is in Southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers, bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the northeast, and Mozambique to the east. Since the 11th century, present-day Zimbabwe has been the site of several organized states and kingdoms, such as the Rozvi and Mthwakazi kingdoms, as well as being a major route for migration and trade. In 1965, the Conservative minority government unilaterally declared independence as Rhodesia; in April 1980, Zimbabwe gained sovereignty as an independent state.

Zimbabwe has a centralized government and is divided into eight provinces and two cities with provincial status, for administrative purposes. Each

Republic of Zimbabwe



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

province has a capital where official business is usually carried out. The provinces are subdivided into 62 districts and 1,966 wards (sometimes referred to as municipalities). The population grew from 10.41 million in 1992 to 11.63 million in 2002 to 13.06 million in 2012.¹

- Land area: 390,757 km²
- Population: 14,215,809 (2019 projection), with an intercensal annual growth rate of 1.1 percent²
- Capital city: Harare
- Official working language: English
- Other official languages: Chewa, Chibarwe, Kalanga, Koisan, Nambya, Ndau, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, sign language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa
- Ministry responsible for civil registration: Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage
- Civil registration agency: Department of the Registrar General
- National statistical office: Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)

CRVS dimensions

Births	
Completeness of birth registration ³	Not available
Children under 5 years of age whose births were reported as registered	49% (2019) ⁴
Births attended by skilled health personnel	86% (2019) ⁵
Women aged 15–49 who received antenatal care from a skilled provider	72% (2019) ⁶
DPT1 immunization coverage among 1-year-olds ⁷	88% (2018) ⁸
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	30.68 (2018) ⁹
Total fertility rate (live births per woman)	3.6 (2018) ¹⁰
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years)	88% (2018) ¹¹
Population under age 15 years	Not available
Institutional deliveries: percentage of deliveries in a health facility	Not available
Deaths	
Completeness of death registration (adults only)	Not available
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	7.7 (2020) ¹²
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	38 (2019) ¹³
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	55 (2019) ¹⁴
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	462 (2019) ¹⁵
Marriages and divorces	
Marriage registration rate	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 15	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 18	34% (2019) ¹⁶
Divorce registration rate	Not available
Vital statistics including causes of death data	
Compilation and dissemination of civil registration-based statistics	Not available
Medically certified causes of death	Not available

Civil registration system

Zimbabwe, formerly known as Southern Rhodesia, became independent from Great Britain on 18 April 1980. Even though civil registration was established in 1890, it did not become mandatory for all until after independence. Birth registration began in 1891, and death registration in 1904. Birth and death registration did not include African tribal members until 1963. Vital events records began around 1893, with separate registration for the Indian population from 1858 to 1921. Civil registration records were primarily a source of birth, marriage, and death information for the European and Asian populations in Southern Africa. Coverage of the Indigenous population was significantly lower, especially before independence.

Legislative framework

Civil registration in Zimbabwe is guided by the following legislation:

- *Births and Deaths Registration Act* [Chapter 5:02], enacted in 1986;
- *Burial and Cremation Act* [Chapter 5:03], enacted in 1962;
- *Children Protection and Adoption Act* [Chapter 5:06], enacted in 1971;
- *National Registration Act* [Chapter 10:17], enacted in 1976;
- *Citizenship of Zimbabwe Act* [Chapter 4:01], enacted in 1984;
- *Marriage Act* [Chapter 5:11], enacted in 1964; and
- *Customary Marriages Act* [Chapter 5:07], enacted in 1917.

Management, organization, and operations

The entities responsible for the registration of vital events and identification are:

- Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage;
- Ministry of Health and Child Care; and
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

The Department of the Registrar General, in the Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for civil registration and identification in Zimbabwe. It has offices in all Zimbabwean administrative provinces and districts.

Services offered by the Department of the Registrar General include:

- Initial birth certificates;
- Duplicate birth certificates;
- Death certificates;
- Duplicate death certificates;
- External birth certificates;
- Non-citizen birth certificates;
- Abridged birth certificates;
- Authentications;
- Repatriation/expatriation of bodies;
- Adoption registration;
- Refugee birth registrations;
- Correction of errors on records/certificates;
- Re-registrations;
- Issuance of addendums;
- Amendment of records; and
- Burial orders.

The civil registration law mandates coverage for all geographic areas of the country, including nationals, non-nationals, and refugees. However, there is no provision to generate vital statistics.

The organizational structure of the Department of the Registrar General is provided in Annex 1. An overview of the civil registration business process for registration and/or notification of civil registration processes is provided in Annex 2.

National CRVS systems coordination mechanisms

Coordination mechanisms in the country are not yet formalized.

Administrative-level registration centres

The lowest administrative unit where local civil registration offices are found is at the sub-office level. There are 282 civil registration centres in Zimbabwe: 63 in urban areas and 219 in rural areas. There are 82 civil registrars: 38 in urban areas and 48 in rural areas.

Accessibility of civil registration services

The distance to the civil registration centres is 1 to 10 km in urban areas and more than 10 km in rural areas. Those living in rural areas might require more time due to long distances between registration centres. The decentralization program is ongoing. Most people travel to these centres on foot or by car.

Registration of vital events

The events covered by the civil registration system include those listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Events covered by the civil registration system.

Vital events	Is event covered?	Are definitions aligned to UN suggested definitions?
Live birth	Yes	Yes
Death	Yes	Yes
Marriage	Yes	Yes
Divorce	Yes	Yes
Adoptions	Yes	Yes

The legal framework for birth registration in Zimbabwe is stipulated in the *Births and Deaths Registration Act* (2005). [Chapter 5:02].

The parents or anyone living in the same house as the child, healthcare staff, or any witness of the birth aged 18 years or older are mandated declarants for birth registration.

The key data elements collected at **birth registration** include:

- **Child:** name, date of birth, sex, weight at birth, ethnicity, date of registration, place of occurrence [of the birth], and place of registration;
- **Mother of the child:** marital status, date of marriage, ethnicity, place of usual residence, and birth (or parity) order; and
- **Father of the child:** marital status, date of marriage, ethnicity, and place of usual residence.

A birth certificate is required for identification, travel, education, voting, inheritance, and obtaining social assistance. Time allowed for registration is 42 days.

Birth registration is further classified depending on where the child being registered was born, the marital status of the parents, whether one of the parents is deceased, etc.¹⁷

Children born in a health facility:

- Where parents are legally married and were married before the child was born, the following documents are required: mother's and father's national identity documents, birth confirmation record from the hospital or clinic, and marriage certificate.
- Only one of the parents can register the child, but they must bring the national identity document of the other spouse.
- Where one or both parents are deceased, the relevant death certificates are required. The surviving spouse or relatives can register the child. The surviving spouse should sign the declaration of paternity.
- Where parents are not legally married, the following documents are required: mother's and father's identity documents and a birth confirmation record from the hospital or clinic; both parents must be present to sign a declaration of paternity.
- Single mothers are free to register their children under their maiden name if the biological father refuses to acknowledge paternity or his whereabouts are unknown.
- Single fathers are also free to register if the biological mother cannot be found or is not cooperating in the registration of the child.

Children born outside of hospitals:

- Where parents are legally married, the following documents are required: mother's and father's national identity documents; a marriage certificate; and one witness with a national identity document, preferably a midwife. Either parent can register the child but must bring the national identity document of the other spouse.
- Where one or both parents are deceased, the relevant death certificates are required. The surviving spouse or relatives can register the child. The surviving spouse should sign the declaration of paternity.

- Where the parents are not legally married, the following documents are required: mother's and father's national identity documents; and one witness with a national identity document, preferably a midwife. In the case of a child born on a farm, a witness or a letter (declaration form supplied by the office) from the farmer is required. Both parents must be present to sign a declaration of paternity.
- Single mothers are free to register their children under their maiden name if the biological father refuses to acknowledge paternity or his whereabouts are unknown.
- Single fathers are also free to register if the biological mother cannot be found or is not cooperating in the registration of the child.

The Zimbabwe civil registration system has a provision for self-registrations. These are exceptional cases and are determined by the district registrar and confirmed by the provincial registrar. This is for adults whose parents are both deceased.

The requirements for self-registration are:

- National identity document of the applicant;
- National identity document of a close relative;
- Death certificates of parents; and
- Letter from the employer, if employed.

External birth certificates are issued to persons born outside of Zimbabwe where one or both parents are Zimbabwean citizens other than by descent.

The requirements for an external birth certificate are that both parents must provide Zimbabwean passports, their Zimbabwe identity document, and a marriage certificate (if not married, both parents must acknowledge paternity).

Non-citizen birth registrations are birth certificates issued to children of foreign nationals (visitors and expatriates). To acquire a foreign birth certificate, parents must provide foreign passports and a

marriage certificate (if not married, both parents must acknowledge paternity). If the marriage certificate is in a foreign language, it must be accompanied by an official translation.

To adopt a child in Zimbabwe, the child's birth certificate and seven copies of the order of adoption obtained from the courts of law are required.

The legal framework for **death registration** in Zimbabwe is stipulated in the *Births and Deaths Registration Act* [Chapter 5:02], and the *Burial and Cremation Act* [Chapter 5:03].

The mandated legal informant to register a death is:

- A relative of the deceased aged 18 years or older;
- Any occupier of the house in which the death occurred aged 18 years or older; or
- Village head, chief, councillor, etc.

The time period allowed for death registration is within 30 days.

No fee is paid at registration, and no penalties are charged for late registration. Declarants are required to have a medical certificate or, in cases of death by natural causes in rural areas, a traditional leader notification letter.

The key data elements collected at death registration include:

- **Deceased:** name, sex, date of birth or age, marital status, place of usual residence, and occupation;
- **Death:** date of death, place of occurrence of the death, date of registration, place of registration, cause of death, and certifier; and
- **Fetal deaths:** date of occurrence of fetal delivery, date of registration, place of occurrence, place of registration, and sex of the fetus.

A death certificate is required for processing inheritance, change of ownership of movable and immovable property, claiming insurance, and resolution of the deceased's estate. To proceed with the burial of the deceased, the relatives are required to process a burial order. This depends on where the death occurred and the duration of the occurrence.

To process a burial order for a person who has died in a health institution after 24 hours, the family representative or authorized undertaker should produce the following documents:

- National identity document or valid passport of a close relative;
- Deceased's national identity document, valid passport, or child health card (if the deceased is a minor without a birth certificate);
- Notice of death forms (BD11 forms) completed by the health information assistants or clerks; and
- Medical certificate confirming cause of death (BD12 form). If a person dies in a private medical institution, form BD12 should be completed by a medical doctor.

To process a burial order for a person who has died at home or in a health institution in under 24 hours, a family representative or authorized undertaker should produce the following documents:

- National identity document or valid passport of a close relative;
- Deceased's national identity document, valid passport, or child health card (if the deceased is a minor without a birth certificate);
- Notice of death forms (BD11 forms) completed by a police officer; and
- Form 231 (application for a postmortem report).

Acquiring a death certificate from the civil registration office

The requirements to register a death that occurred in hospital are:

- Deceased person's national identity document;
- Death registration form (BD11 form) duly completed by the hospital or by any other prescribed informant;
- A police application for post-mortem examination (form 231) duly completed by a pathologist, where applicable;
- A medical certificate of cause of death (form BD12) issued by the doctor who last attended the deceased; and
- Marriage certificate, where applicable.

The requirements to register a death that occurred outside the hospital are:

- Deceased person's national identity document;
- Two competent witnesses (18 years and above) with national identity documents who were present at the time of death or burial;
- A letter from the chief, village head, headman, or councillor confirming that the deceased died in his/her area; and
- Clinic document or treatment documentation, where applicable.

Repatriation and expatriation of bodies in and out of Zimbabwe

Where a person or next of kin applies to bring in a deceased person's body for burial in Zimbabwe:

- The deceased person's national identity document;
- The deceased person's passport;
- A no objection letter, for health reasons, from Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health;

- A no objection letter from the expatriating country where the person died;
- A death certificate from the expatriating country;
- Embalming certificate from the expatriating country;
- Certificate of non-infectious disease/non-epidemic from the expatriating country; and
- Clearance letter from the embassy/consulate.

Note: Photocopies of required documents from the expatriating country are to be submitted to the district registrar of the port of entry or the registrar general in advance to enable them to obtain a no objection letter from the Ministry of Health and to confirm particulars of the deceased.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a facilitative role by liaising with Zimbabwe foreign missions or the countries concerned.

Where a next of kin applies to take the body of a deceased person for burial outside the country:

- A no objection letter from the repatriating country where the body will be buried;
- A no objection letter for health reasons from the Ministry of Health;
- A non-infectious disease certificate from the doctor who last attended the deceased;
- Form BD11, completed by the hospital where the person died or any other person as prescribed;
- Form BD12, issued by the doctor who last attended the deceased;
- The deceased person's national identity document or passport; and
- Embalming certificate from the embalmer.

On receipt of the above documents, all being in order, the district registrar can issue a burial order and a death certificate to the applicant.

The legal framework for **marriage registration** in Zimbabwe is guided by the *Marriage Act*, Chapter 5:11, and the *Customary Marriages Act*, Chapter 5:07. The legal age for marriage is 18 years for both sexes. The place of registration is the Department of the Registrar General.

The requirements for marriage registration include the presence of the groom and bride and proof of age for the groom and bride.

The following information is collected in the marriage register:

- **Spouses:** date of birth or age of the bride, place of usual residence of the bride, date of birth or age of the groom, and place of usual residence of the groom; and
- **Marriage:** date of occurrence, date of registration, place of occurrence, and place of registration.

A marriage certificate is to serve as evidence of marriage.

Backlog of unregistered births

The estimated backlog of unregistered births (those not registered after one year from the

occurrence of the event) or vital events was not provided.

Sample registration forms

Registration forms are processed manually (on paper) or electronically (via computer or tablet).

Samples of registration forms and certificates are:

- Notice of birth of a child;
- Notice of birth of a child born outside Zimbabwe to citizens of Zimbabwe otherwise than by descent;
- Notice of the death of a person;
- Specimen birth certificate;
- Specimen death certificate;
- Marriage licence;
- Certificate of publication of banns of marriage;
- Duplicate marriage register; and
- Marriage certificate.

Registration fees

Registration of vital events is free of charge. The costs of certifying vital events are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Fees for issuing vital events certificates.

Vital event	Certification fees	Certification cost	Remarks
Birth	No		A fee of US\$0.10 is charged for late registration. Late registration applies to children above the age of 6.
Marriage	No		
Divorce	No		
Death	Yes	US\$0.10	

Vital statistics system

Vital statistics

The *Census and Statistics Act* of 2007 created the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT), replacing the Central Statistical Office.

ZIMSTAT is working on its first comprehensive vital statistics report; this will replace the mortality report, which was last produced in 2012, reporting on 2007 deaths.¹⁸ The enhanced report will include all vital events.

Causes of death

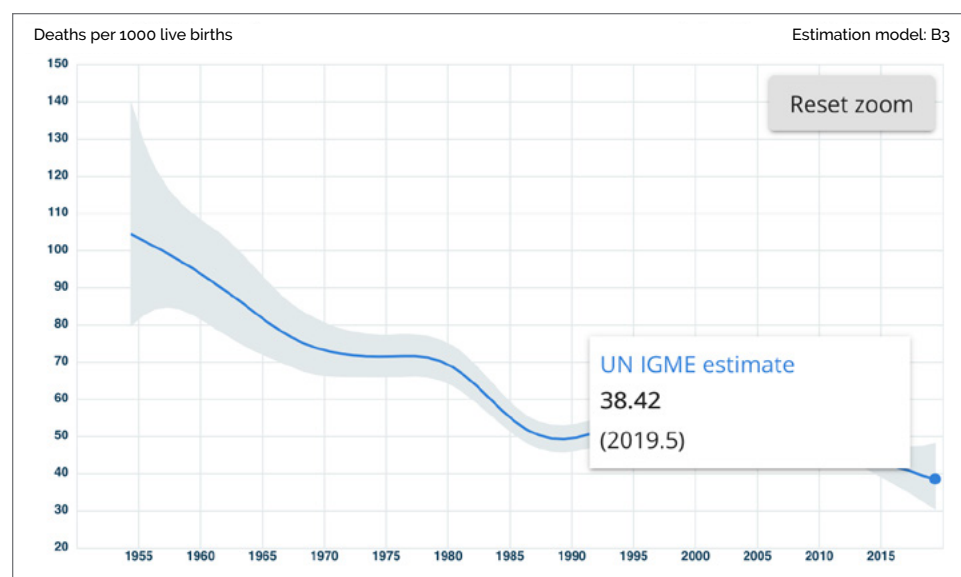
Table 3: Cause-of-death information collection through the civil registration system.

Cause of death (COD)	Is COD information collected through the civil registration system?	Is the Standard International Form of Medical Certificate of COD for recording deaths used?
For deaths occurring in health facilities	Yes	No
For natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes	No
For non-natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes	No

For non-institutional deaths, verbal autopsy tools or methods are not used. The cause of death is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition (ICD-10).

The UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation indicates the infant mortality rate at 38.42 deaths per 1,000 as of 2019.¹⁹

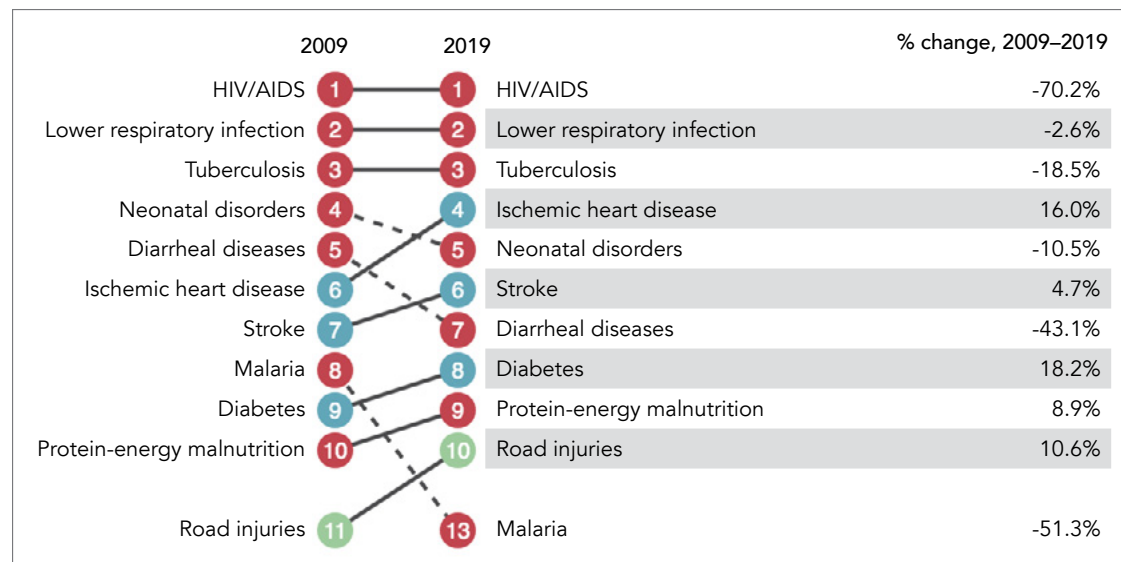
Figure 1: Mortality rate for children under 5 years.



Health data provides the top 10 causes of death in Zimbabwe from 2009 to 2019; HIV/AIDS, lower

respiratory infections, and tuberculosis are the leading causes of death.²⁰

Figure 2: Top 10 causes of death in Zimbabwe.



Digitization

Civil registration and identity management fall under the Department of the Registrar General and are managed by the registrar general.

Computerization

Computer use in CRVS is outlined in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Computer use in CRVS.

Centre	Are computers used for civil registration?	Remarks
Local registrars across the country	Yes	Provincial and district offices are computerized. The program is ongoing; some sub-offices have yet to be computerized.
Urban centres	Yes	
Healthcare facilities	No	

Online registration services at health facilities

No information was provided.

Mobile technology application

No information was provided.

Unique identification number

The identification number is the unique identifier used in both civil registration and ID management. This number links all the civil registration processes; it is the primary key used to retrieve information in the system. For example, when a child is registered, he or she is immediately issued a computerized birth certificate with a national identity number. When the child reaches age 16, the same number is used to register for an identity document; this includes other events that may occur in his or her life, such as marriage registration, passport application, and death registration.

The Zimbabwe Population Registration System, created in 1996, maintains all essential demographic personal data related to registrations of birth, death, national identity, marriage, voting, passport, and cattle brands. This centralized database can be accessed by any individual using their national identity number and password.

Digitization of historical registration records

No information was provided.

Link with the identification system

Civil registration gives access to an identity document. Without a birth certificate or unique identity number, people cannot access other identity documents.

The registrar general is also responsible for issuing national identifications (IDs), which were first issued in 1996. Zimbabwe's national ID has a barcode with biometric information (thumbprint). It also contains an ID number, full name, date of birth, village of origin, place of birth, date of issuance, and signature. Security features include a hologram, watermark, invisible personal information coded on the photo, UV fluorescence, and iridescent ink.

The *National Registration Act*, [Chapter 10:17], states that every citizen aged 16 and above must register for a national registration document. The individual must produce a birth certificate as proof of identity. Processing time to issue an ID card is one day, and a "green copy" takes three days. The fee for ID documentation and fingerprint clearance is US\$1, while the initial registration of persons over age 18 is US\$2. Replacement of a lost or defaced identity document costs from US\$2 to US\$10.²¹

Data protection and data privacy

Privacy protection is enshrined in Zimbabwe's Constitution. Recognizing the right to privacy and the protection of data privacy is found in section 57 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Amendment 20 of 2013, which affords every person the right to privacy. The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* [Chapter 10:27] contains the most provisions on data protection.

Other laws that refer to the protection of information as a function of other activities or the protection of specific types of data are:

- *Courts and Adjudicating Authorities (Publicity Restrictions) Act* [Chapter 07:04];
- *Census and Statistics Act* [Chapter 10:29];
- *Banking Act* [Chapter 24:20];
- *National Registration Act* [Chapter 10:17]; and
- *Interception of Communications Act* [Chapter 11:20].

In August 2016, the Cabinet approved the revised National Policy for Information – Communication Technology (ICT Policy). The policy included the creation of an institutional framework for enacting legislation dealing specifically with digital data protection matters and cyber-security.²²

The *Freedom of Information Act* (No. 1 of 2020) was enacted as part of the laws of Zimbabwe on 1 July 2020 to provide for rights of expression, freedom of media, and the right of access to information held by entities in the interest of public accountability or for the exercise or protection of a right. This repealed the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* of 2001.

While the Freedom of Information Act does not focus on data protection rights, certain provisions of the act regulate the handling of personal information that directly affects data rights. More relevant to the present overview is the Cyber Security and Data Protection Bill of 2019, which was published on 15 May 2020.

This bill is a transformative measure in Zimbabwean law: its primary purpose is to protect the privacy and data rights of those susceptible to infringement. The bill appointed the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe as the data protection authority.²³

Interface with other sectors and operations

The Department of the Registrar General is in charge of civil registration, identification, passport issuance, and livestock brands. This provides a unique opportunity for the Department of the Registrar General as the custodian for registration data in Zimbabwe.

Improvement initiatives and external support

Improvement plan and budget

There is a strategic plan for the Department of the Registrar General. The plan period is from 2021 to 2025.

Budgetary allocations and requirements

The estimated budget for the strategic plan is US\$69,700,762. In the current fiscal year, the government treasury has allocated US\$2,090,941.

Activities identified as high priorities

The CRVS activities identified as high priorities in the costed strategic plan are listed in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Underfunded high-priority national plan activities.

High-priority areas in the strategic plan lacking funding ²⁴	Estimated cost (in US\$) (2021–2025)	Expected government allocation (in US\$) (2021–2025)	Expected budget gaps (in US\$) (2021–2025)	Remarks
Computerization of registry offices	1,993,350	1,500,000	493,350	The department proposed to computerize 34 sites in 5 years. However, funds permitting, all registry offices need to be computerized.
Infrastructure development office and staff accommodation	13,013,295	5,200,000	7,813,295	Most of the registry offices do not have the appropriate infrastructure to enable computerization.
Mobile registration	5,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department was not able to conduct civil registration; hence the need to conduct national mobile registration.

Support from development partners

The development partners that provided support to Zimbabwe's CRVS systems improvement initiative are listed in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Support from development partners.

International organizations, NGOs, and partners	Mandate
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Support initiatives relating to internally displaced persons
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Provide technical support for birth registration

Conclusion

The Republic of Zimbabwe, through its Department of the Registrar General, has made significant progress in improving its CRVS systems. Some notable achievements include:

- Free birth registration is provided for children under age 6.
- Initial registration of national identity documents is done at no cost for applicants below the age of 18.
- The department periodically carries out mobile registration exercises to bring services to the people. Currently, mobile registration exercises are being done at the district level.
- Fees are waived during national mobile registration exercises.

The Department of the Registrar General is continuously working on solutions to improve service delivery. Some of the recommendations to be adopted to achieve more effective and efficient coordination among national key stakeholders at country level include:

- Integration of systems with key stakeholders; and
- Establishment of an effective technical working committee comprising key stakeholders.

The Department further identified some of the social factors affecting registration for vital events:

- Social and cultural norms: These include lack of cooperation by parents or relatives, and demand for *lobola* payments before assistance can be given.
- Generational challenges: Individuals fail to acquire identity documents because their parents and, in some instances, grandparents do not have identity documents.
- Distance: Some people, especially in rural areas, must travel long distances to access services.
- Religious beliefs: Some religious beliefs are a barrier to accessing identity documents because they do not acknowledge the importance of registration.
- Poverty: Some people, especially in rural communities, lack the resources to travel to the nearest registration office.
- Migration: Some parents migrated, leaving their children unregistered; their whereabouts are unknown.
- Ignorance: Some parents and guardians are not aware of the provisions of the law, such as the *Births and Deaths Registration Act*, which stipulates that every child must be registered within 42 days of birth.

Some upcoming priorities for the Department of Registrar General:

- Computerization of sub-offices;
- Decentralization of services;
- Infrastructure development – office and staff accommodation, and maintenance; and
- Mobile registration exercises and awareness campaigns.

Zimbabwe would like to achieve more effective and efficient coordination among national key stakeholders at the country level through pooling efforts of the actors involved in the civil status system.

The Department of the Registrar General should be supported by development partners in the following areas:

- Financial support to conduct mobile registrations and purchase all-terrain vehicles;
- Technical support: skills development, exchange programs, and workshops;
- Information and communications technology at sub-national offices: computer equipment and software; and
- Infrastructure development of registry offices.



Resources

Websites

Department of the Registrar General:

rg.gov.zw

Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage:

moha.gov.zw/en

UNICEF Zimbabwe:

data.unicef.org/crvs/zimbabwe

World Health Organization Zimbabwe:

afro.who.int/countries/zimbabwe

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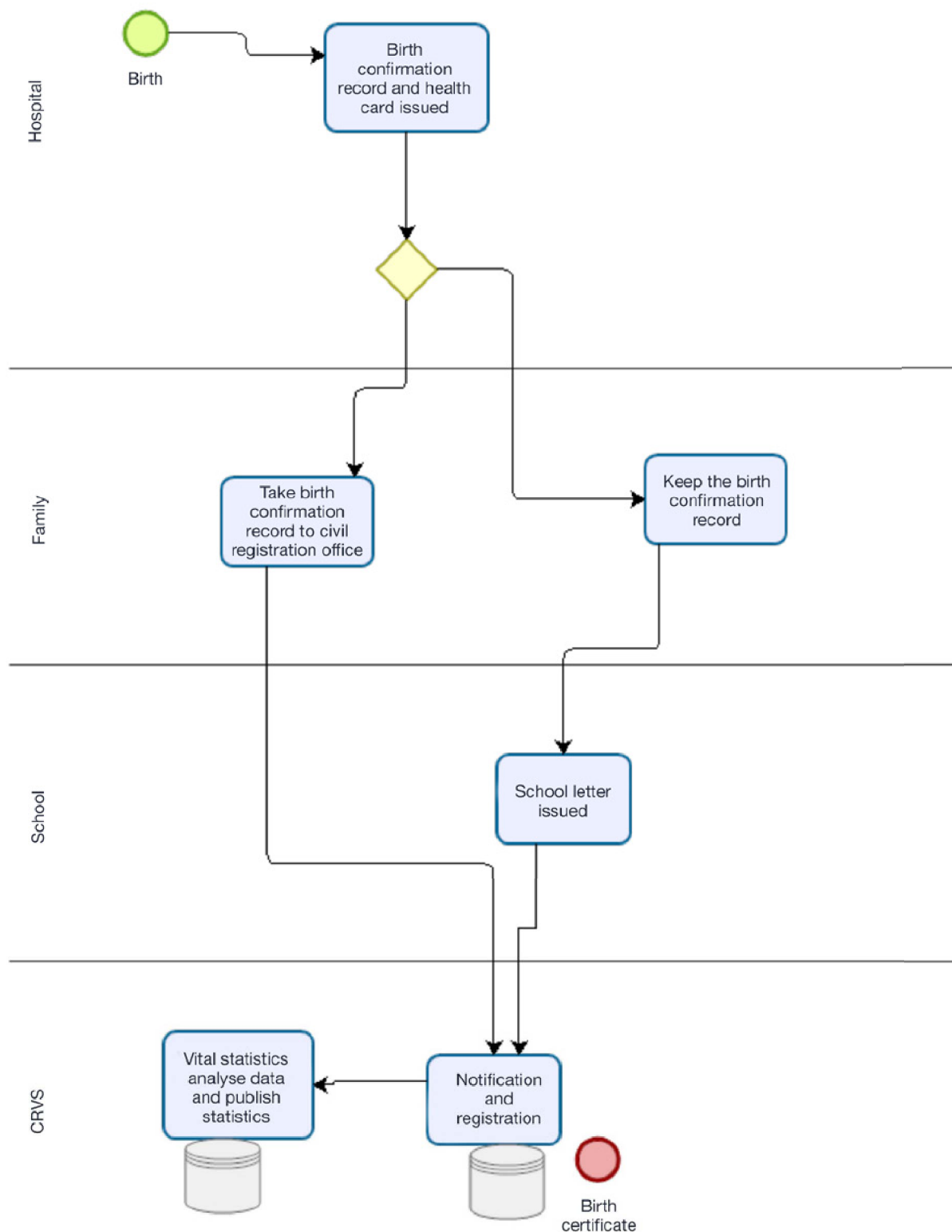
Additional materials

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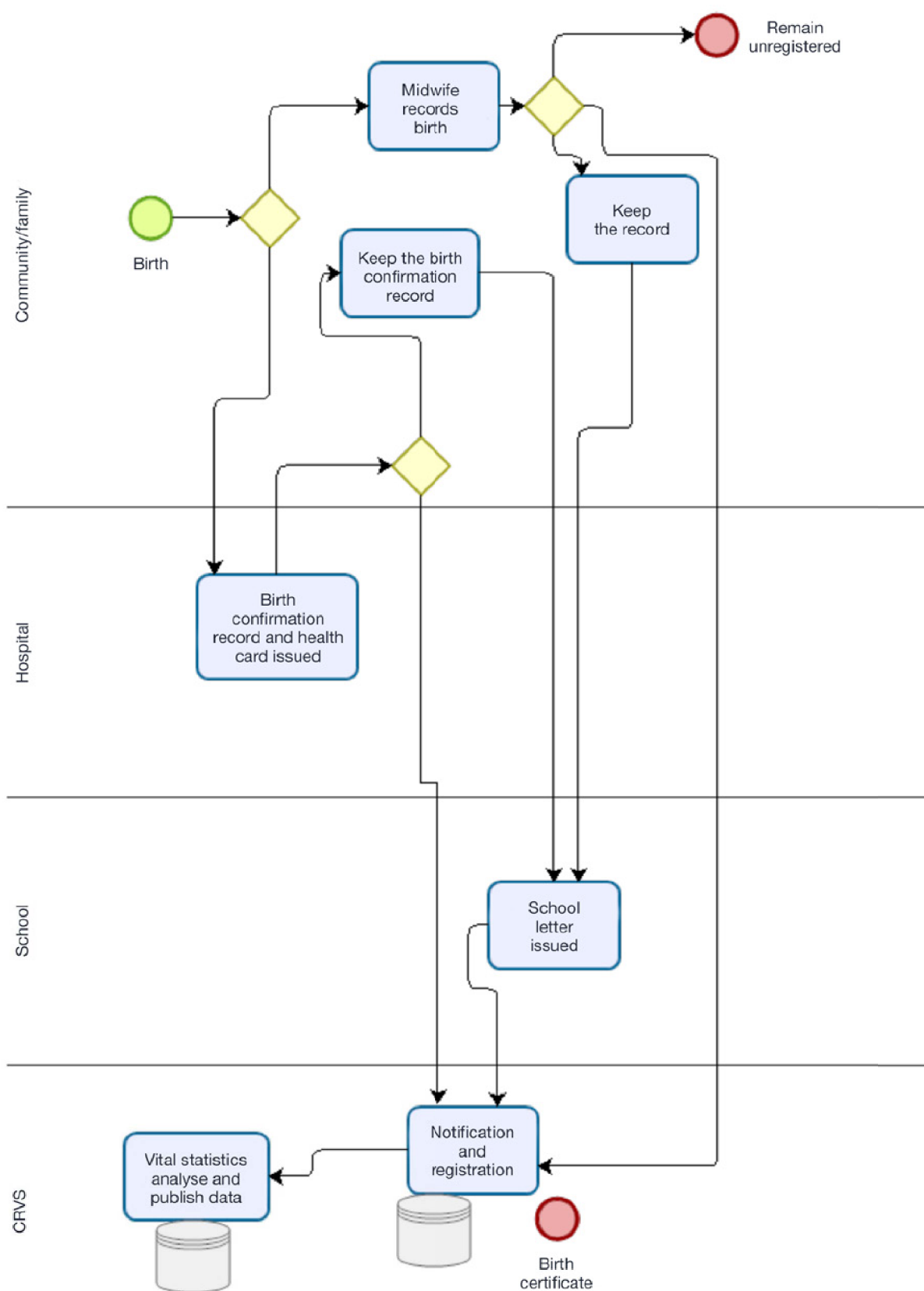
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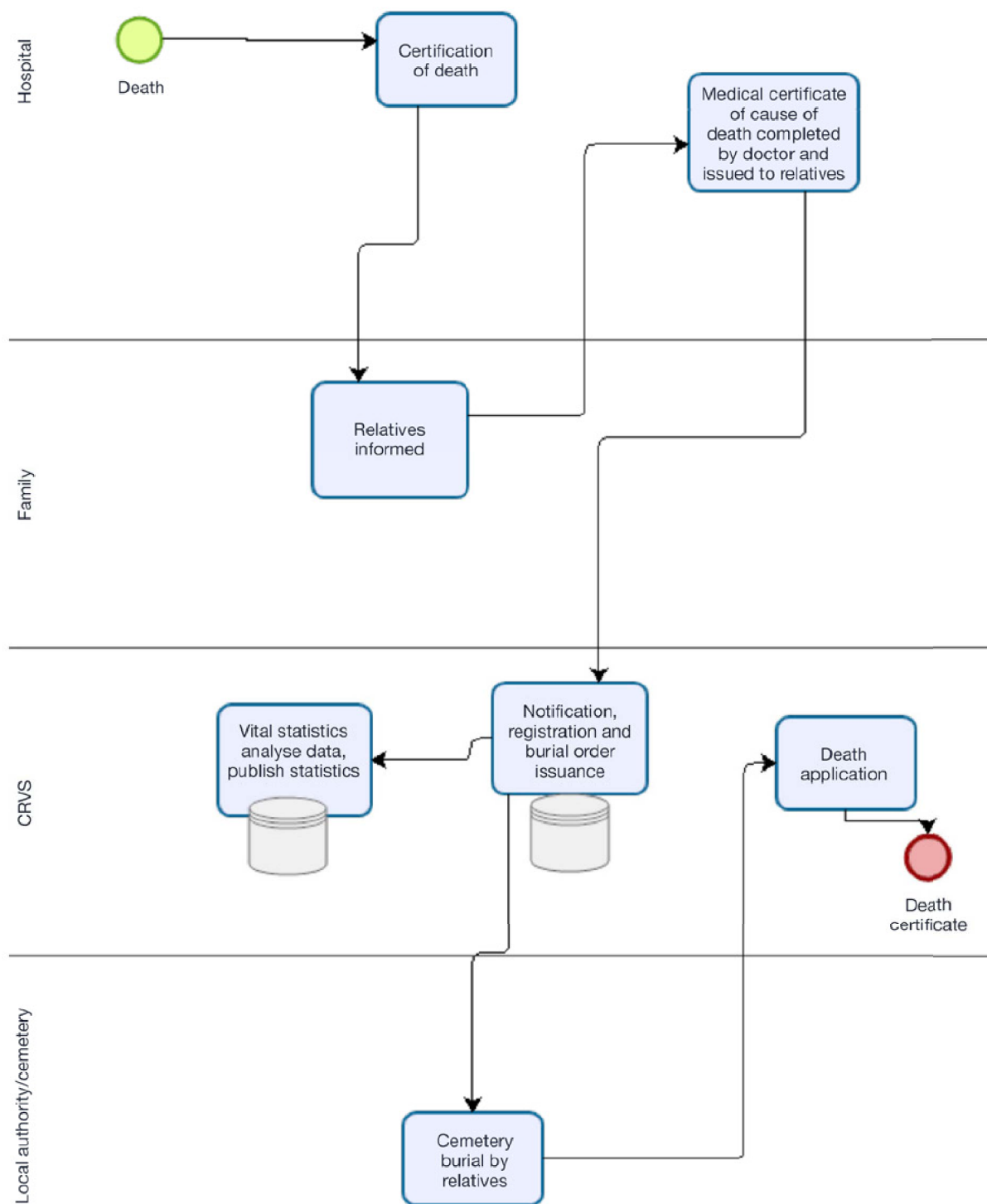
Annex 1: Birth registration at health facility – business process



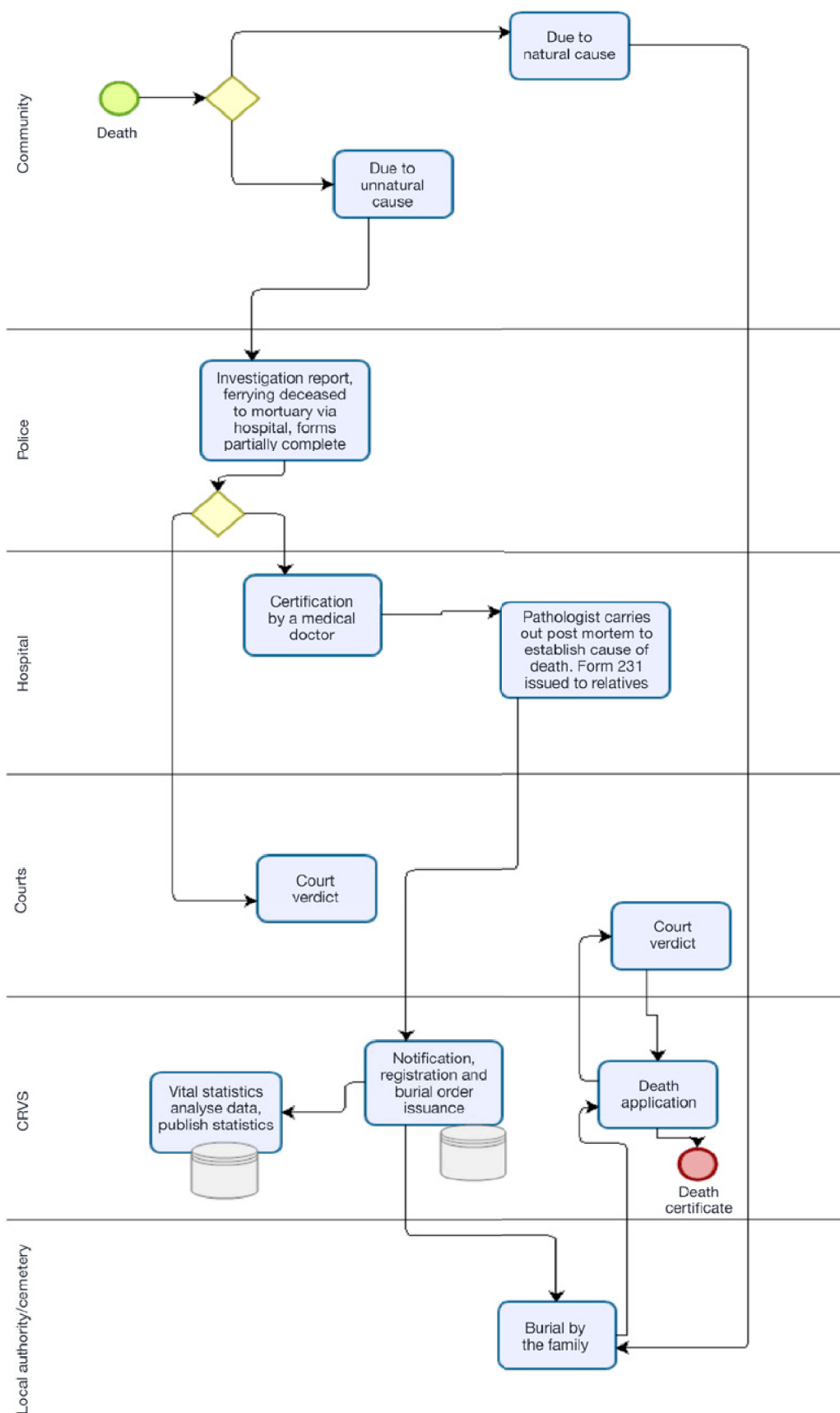
Annex 2: Birth registration in community – business process



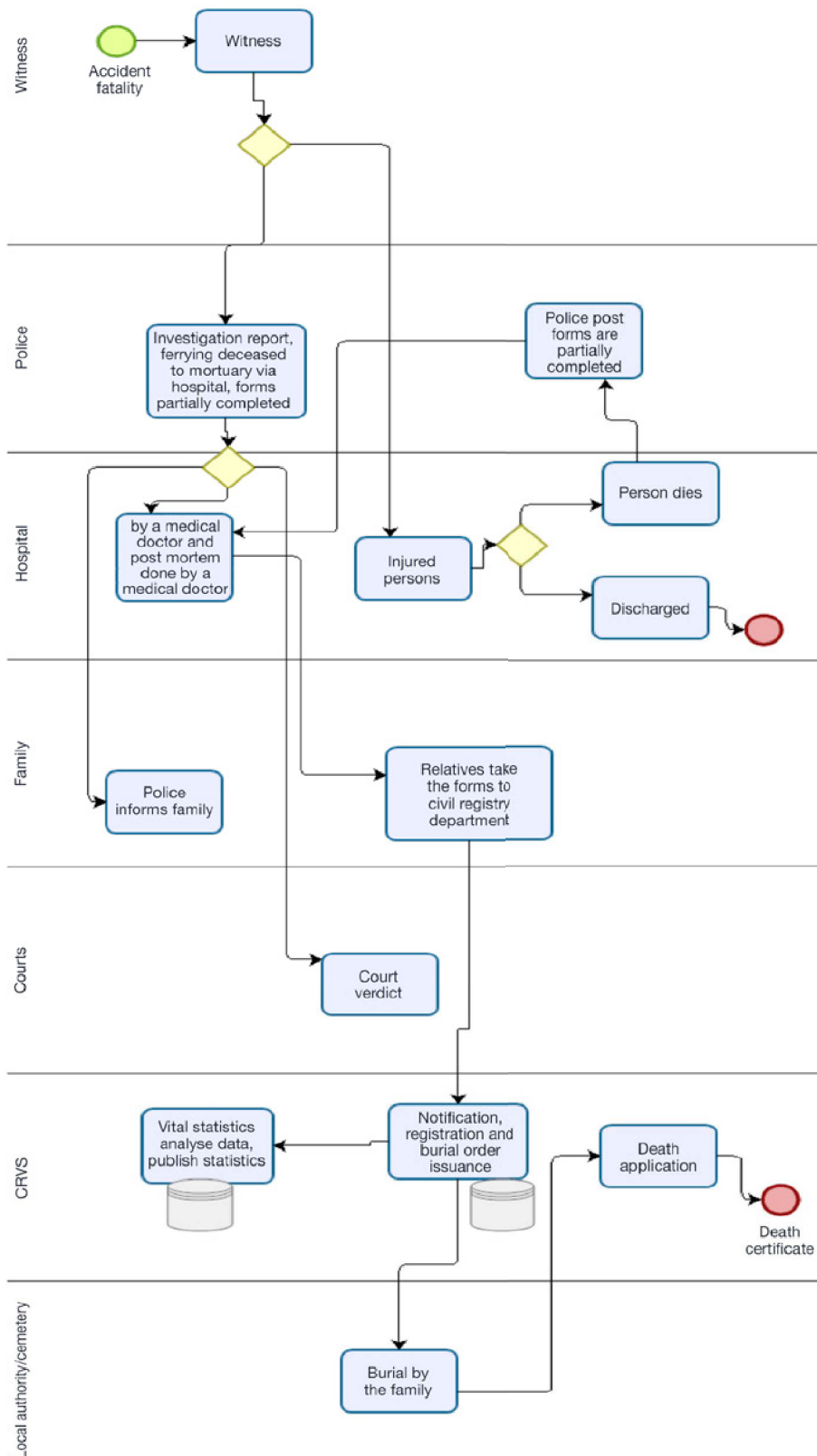
Annex 3: Death registration at health facility – business process



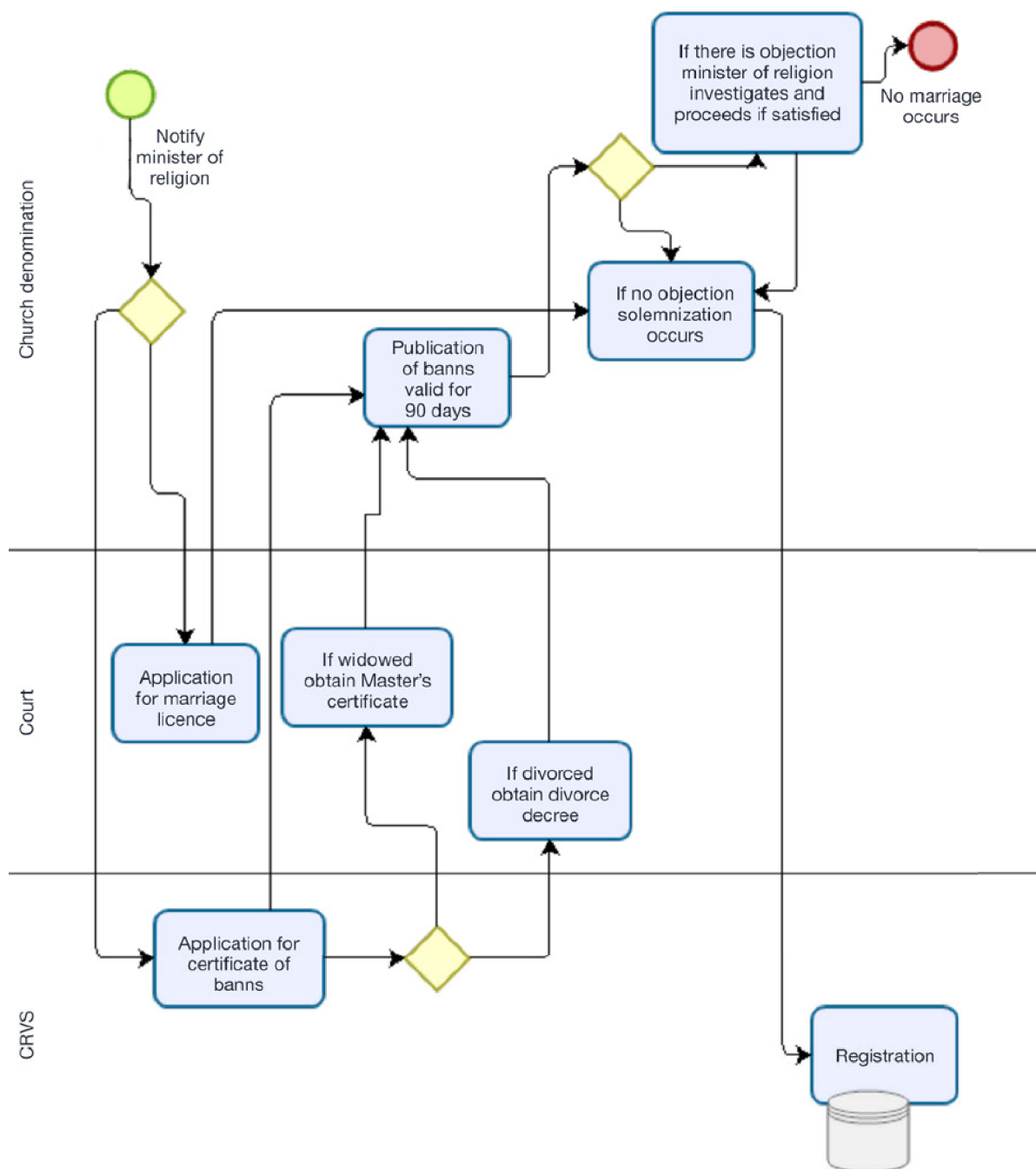
Annex 4: Death registration in community – business process



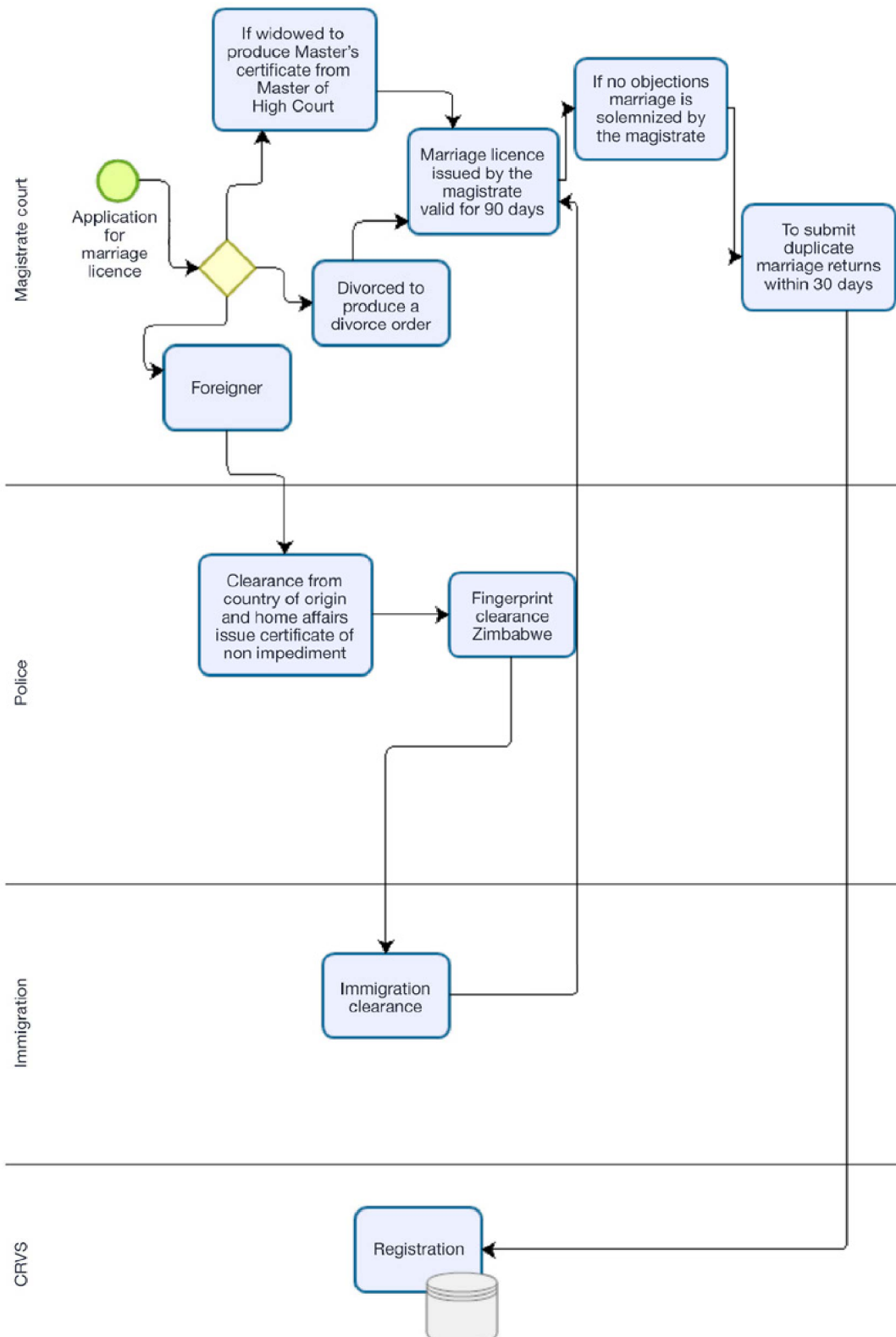
Annex 5: Registration of deaths due to accident – business process



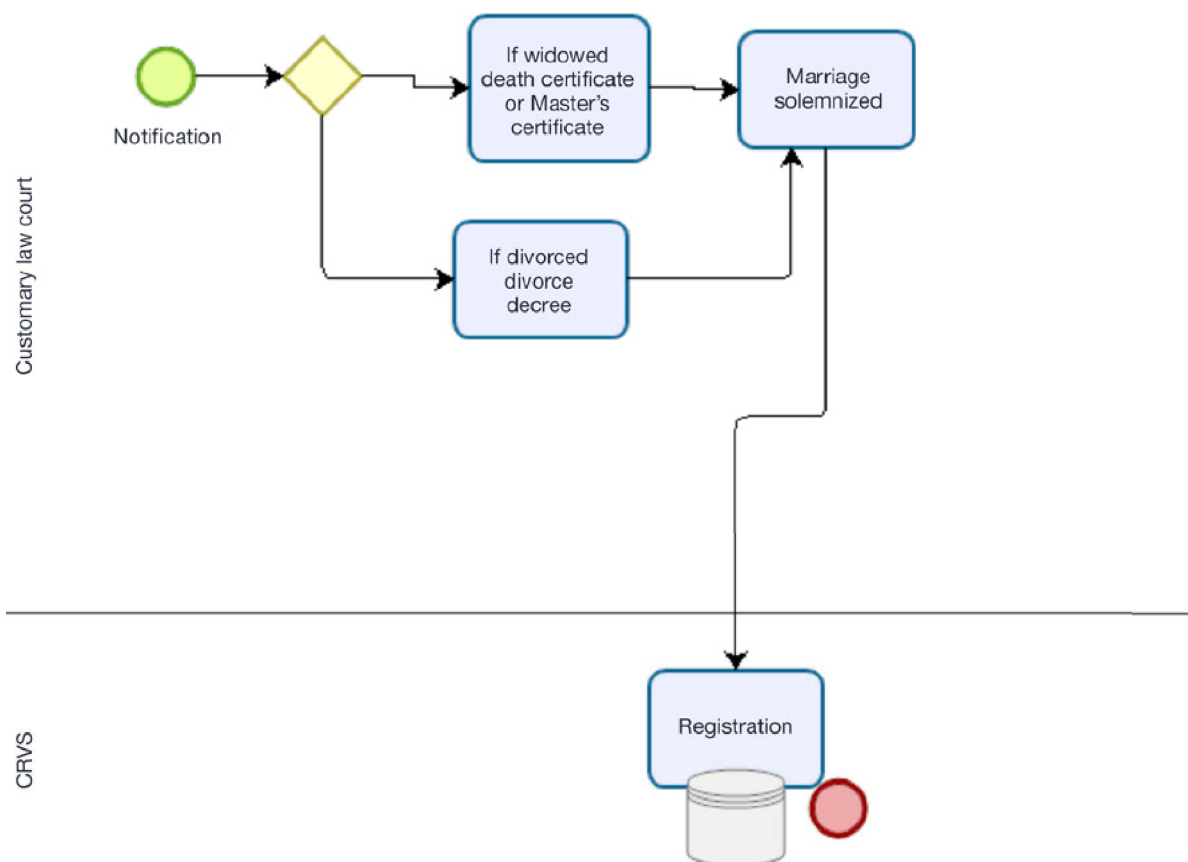
Annex 6: Marriage registration: church denomination – business process



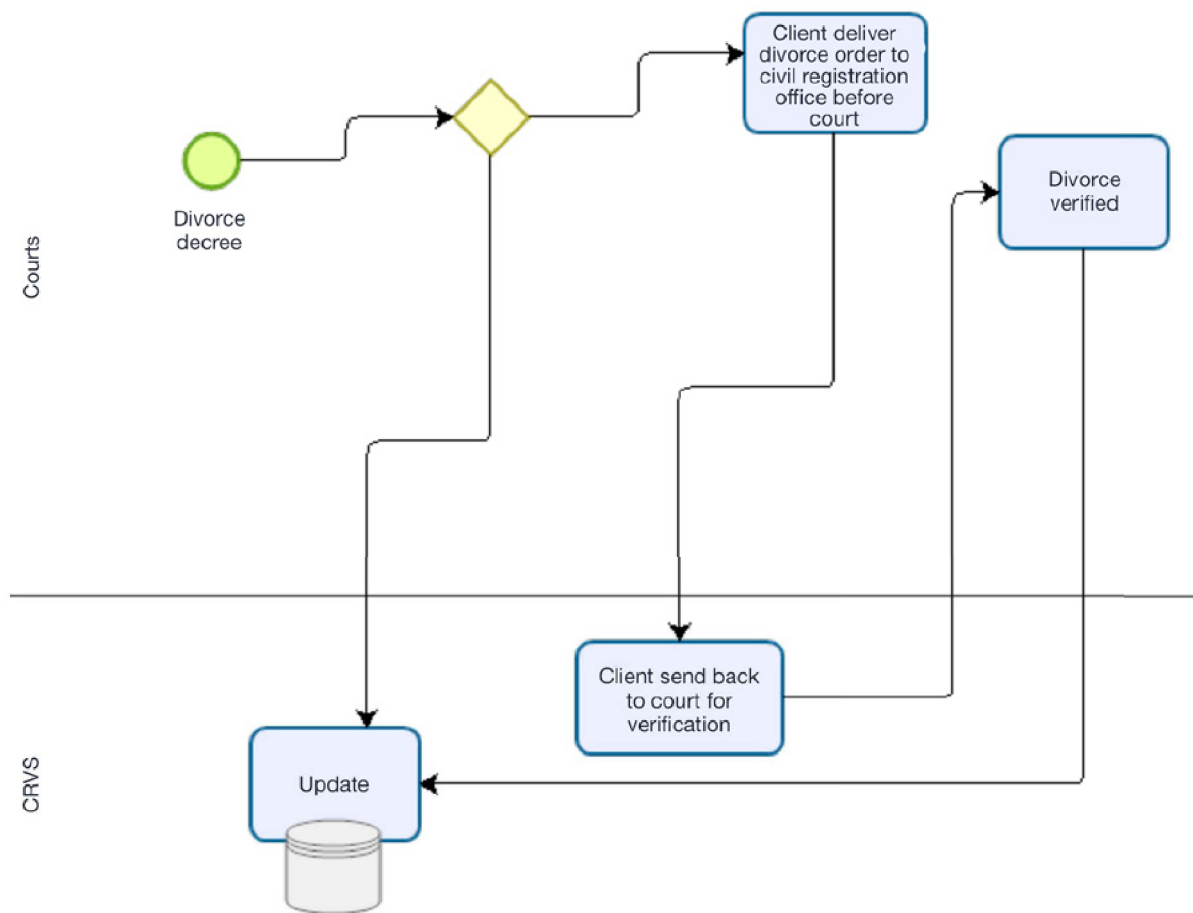
Annex 7: Marriage registration: court marriages – business process



Annex 8: Marriage registration: customary marriages – business process



Annex 9: Divorce registration – business process



Endnotes

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- 3 Birth or death registration completeness means the actual number of registered births or deaths divided by the estimated number of births or deaths in a particular country or area, in a specified time period, usually one year. See ECA, ESCAP, and Statistics Norway. 2016.
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- 20 Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). n.d. Zimbabwe. healthdata.org/zimbabwe
- 21 World Bank. 2017. Report on the State of Identification Systems in Africa. openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28310
- 22 Data Protection Laws of the World. 2021. Zimbabwe. dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html?t=law&c=ZW#:~:text=The%20protection%20of%20privacy%20is%20a%20principal%20enshrined%20in%20Zimbabwe%E2%80%99s%20Constitution.&text=The%20Access%20to%20Information%20and,personal%20data%20by%20public%20bodies
- 23 OneTrust DataGuidance. 2020. Zimbabwe Data Protection Overview. dataguidance.com/notes/zimbabwe-data-protection-overview
- 24 The high priorities should be identified in the assessment leading to the preparation of the strategic plan. The priorities could differ from country to country. In general, examples could be advocacy, updating the legal framework, improving registration coverage, improving quality of registers, strengthening coordination among key stakeholders, generating vital statistics including causes of death, introducing technology, and clearance of backlog of registration of births.



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